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82D CONGRESS, 1st Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1044

GRANTING THE CONSENT OF THE CONGRESS TO THE NEGOTIATION OF A COMPACT RELATING TO THE WATERS OF THE SABINE RIVER BY THE STATES OF TEXAS AND LOUISIANA

OCTOBER 19 (legislative day, OCTOBER 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. LONG, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4288]

The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4288) granting the consent of the Congress to the negotiation of a compact relating to the waters of the Sabine River by the States of Texas and Louisiana, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The bill, H. R. 4288, gives consent of Congress to the negotiations of a compact between the States of Louisiana and Texas relating to the waters and the use thereof in the Sabine River and its tributaries. The purpose of such compact is to provide for an equitable apportionment among the States of such waters of the basin as to its flows and uses.

Sabine River rises in Texas, but, not far below its upper drainage, becomes a common boundary between the two affected States. As riparian States they have each asserted equal rights in the river. Each State contains areas which use fresh water for municipal and industrial purposes, and each has potential use for the irrigation of rice crops as well as for ordinary domestic, stock, or other farm requirements.

The Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, and the Department of Agriculture are making surveys and investigations for flood control, power, navigation, and other purposes, and also soil conservation and watershed treatment measures. Reports on these studies are scheduled for completion in 1953. The river basin covers about 9,500 square miles. The average annual runoff at the mouth is about 6,500,000 acre-feet. The runoff is highly variable, ranging from flood peaks of nearly 100,000 second-feet to low autumn flows of 350 second-

feet. It is highly desirable for the States, with the cooperation of a Federal representative (provided for in the bill), to negotiate a compact prior to the completion of the reports of the Federal agencies, and as an aid in planning the works for river control and use.

An identical bill was introduced in the Senate (S. 871) by Senator Lyndon Johnson, and the favorable reports of the Interior Department and the Bureau of the Budget thereon are hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington 25, D. C., June 1, 1951.

Hon. JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
United States Senate, Washington 25, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR O'MAHONEY: This is in response to your request of February 16 for a report by this Department on S. 871, a bill granting the consent of the Congress to the negotiation of a compact relating to the waters of the Sabine River by the States of Texas and Louisiana.

The bill appears to be drawn in much the usual form of previous bills granting the consent of the Congress to the negotiation of compacts relating to interstate streams. There appears to be nothing questionable in S. 871 and this Department, accordingly, would have no objection to its enactment.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM E. WARNE,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington 25, D. C., May 8, 1951.

Hon. JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR O'MAHONEY: This is in reply to your letter of February 16, 1951, requesting the views of the Bureau of the Budget on S. 871, granting the consent of the Congress to the negotiation of a compact relating to the waters of the Sabine River by the States of Texas and Louisiana.

This bill would give the consent of the Congress to the States of Texas and Louisiana to negotiate and enter into a compact providing for an equitable apportionment between these States of the waters of the Sabine River and its tributaries, subject to the approval of the final compact by the Congress.

The Bureau of the Budget would have no objection to the enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

ELMER B. STAATS,
Assistant Director.

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